

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
/091 W

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O R 241720Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7867
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 0792

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS CG AO
SUBJECT: ZAIRIAN/ANGOLAN RELATIONS: INITIAL READ-OUT OF NORMALIZATION
TALKS JANUARY 21-22

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER IDZUMBUIR CONFIRMED THAT ANGOLAN AND
ZAIRIAN DELEGATIONS HELD BILATERAL TALKS THERE JANUARY 21-22 AS
PLANNED. HE SAID ANGOLANS FOCUSED THEIR ATTENTION ON MAIN CONDI-
TION FOR NORMALIZATION: I.E., THAT ZAIRE NOT ASSIST ANTI-LUANDA
MOVEMENTS OPERATING IN ANGOLA. ZAIRIANS DENIED SUCH ASSISTANCE
BEING GIVEN AND RAISED PROBLEM OF CONTINUING KATANGAN INFILTRA-
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TION ACROSS BORDER INTO SHABA REGION. THEY REITERATED MOBUTU'S
PROPOSAL THAT, IN VIEW OF MUTUAL CHARGES, NEUTRAL OBSERVERS BE
INVITED TO VERIFY SITUATION ON BOTH SIDES OF BORDER. ACCORDING
TO IDZUMBUIR, ANGOLANS REACTED RATHER NEGATIVELY TO THIS IDEA,
CITING PROBLEMS OF FEASIBILITY; HOWEVER, THEY DID NOT REJECT
IT ENTIRELY, AND CLAIMED INSTEAD THEY WOULD HAVE TO GIVE IT
FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

2. IDZUMBUIR SAID THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF BENGUELA RAILROAD, WITH ANGOLANS PROPOSING ITS REOPENING BUT INDICATING THEY EXPECTED GOZ TO TAKE STEPS (I.E., PRESS UNITA) TO ASSURE ITS SECURITY. THIS MATTER WAS APPARENTLY LEFT OPEN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY, IDZUMBUIR SAID NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT RE MEETING HAD YET BEEN MADE BECAUSE ANGOLANS WERE NOT ABLE TO CONCUR IN ISSUING COMMUNIQUE THAT TWO DELEGATIONS HAD DRAFTED UNTIL IT WAS APPROVED BY HIGHER AUTHORITIES IN LUANDA. AS FOR FUTURE, IDZUMBUIR SAID THAT ANGOLANS HAD PRESSED FOR SCHEDULING ANOTHER MEETING SOON BUT GOZ HAD TAKEN MORE CAUTIOUS POSITION, PREFERRING TO AWAIT MORE DEFINITIVE INDICATIONS FROM LUANDA THAT IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE CONCRETE ISSUES INCLUDING GOZ PROPOSAL FOR VERIFYING BORDER VIOLATIONS. GOZ APPARENTLY ANTICIPATES ADDITIONAL MEETINGS, BUT HAS ADOPTED POSTURE OF NOT BEING IN A HURRY AND LEAVING BALL IN LUANDA'S COURT.

4. ABOVE IS ONLY PRELIMINARY, SKETCHY ACCOUNT WHICH WE WILL CROSS-CHECK WITH OTHER SOURCES. IDZUMBUIR (WHO DID NOT ATTEND TALKS) GAVE GENERAL IMPRESSION THAT NOT MUCH PROGRESS WAS MADE AND GOZ REMAINED SKEPTICAL OF ANGOLANS' INTENTIONS TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY. HE ALSO SAID GOZ WAS CONCERNED BY COMMENT NETO REPORTEDLY MADE TO ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR IN LAGOS TO THE EFFECT THAT HE (NETO) WANTED TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS BUT MUCH DEPENDED ON "ATTITUDES OF THOSE AROUND HIM". IDZUMBUIR AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT DIALOGUE HAS BEEN RESUMED AND THAT THE DOOR REMAINS OPEN FOR FURTHER TALKS -- REGARDLESS OF THE OBSTACLES AND MUTUAL SUSPICION THAT OBVIOUSLY PERSIST. CUTLER

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